



GENERAL NOTICE

SUBJECT: Rhode Island Minimum Standards for Ambulances

ISSUED: February 15, 2010

The following changes and clarifications are effective immediately as related to the inspection, maintenance and licensure of all ambulances in Rhode Island. This information supersedes that published in the current *Rhode Island Ambulance Licensure & Inspection Manual*.

1. **Child Seats:** The current *Inspection Manual* requires that all A-class (A-1, A-1A, and A-2) ambulances be provisioned with a child seat (or seats) designed to fit children from newborn to four (4) years of age. However, it has come to our attention that this requirement may be impractical to fulfill. Accordingly, the matter is being referred back to the Ambulance Service Advisory Board's Rules & Regulations Committee for further review. In the interim, the Division of EMS is placing a moratorium on enforcement of the *Inspection Manual's* child seat requirement as written. Pending Ambulance Board review and modification of the existing standard, the interim minimum standard will be that all A-class ambulances be equipped with a child seat designed to restrain a child of twenty (20) to forty (40) pounds in weight. Such a seat may be either the type integrated into the airway seat or a separate unit that is appropriately secured to the stretcher or the airway seat based on manufacturer recommendations. This change represents a temporary relaxation of the existing standard while the Ambulance Board considers this matter in full. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** All EMS providers are responsible for ensuring that every patient is transported in accordance with U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and other standards as applicable.
2. **Level-C Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Existing *Inspection Manual* requirements for Level-C PPE, including the Bullard PA30 PAPR, remain in effect. However, because of the difficulty in storing this equipment on some vehicles, the Division of EMS will no longer require that PPE sets be kept on the vehicle at all times. PPE sets must be present at the time of inspection but may otherwise be stored at the ambulance's station/base if the ambulance service chooses to do so. The service will still be required to maintain an inventory of two PPE sets per vehicle, regardless of where they are stored.
3. **Acceptable Colors for Emergency Warning Lights:** All Rhode Island-licensed ambulances must conform to the *Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance* (KKK-A-1822) as well as applicable state laws. The Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles (RIDMV) Enforcement Unit informs us that ambulances and fire apparatus are only authorized to utilize the light colors defined under RIGL § 31-24-31; blue lights are restricted to law enforcement vehicles only. Accordingly, the only permissible warning lights for ambulances are red, white, and amber as defined in the federal KKK specification. Any questions regarding this matter should be referred to the RIDMV Enforcement Unit, (401) 462-5736.

Thank you for your attention in these matters. Should you have any questions related to the ambulance inspection and licensure process please contact the Division of EMS at (401) 222-2401.